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SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : Sir, does the Hon. Minister know that when this Special Tribunal was appointed, a number of other questions had been earlier referred to it and subsequently this question of bonus for the years 1952 and 1953 had also been referred to it, and there is no knowing when the Special Tribunal will go into the question of bonus for 1952 and 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am aware of all that. But, here in this case, the representatives of the management and the representatives of the Workers' Union have come to an agreement.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : The representatives might have come to an agreement that they will adopt some basis. But in view of the fact that this tribunal is going into a number of other questions and that nearly 300 petitions are pending under section 30, this tribunal will not be able to take up the question of bonus for a number of years. Will the Government see to it that the bonus question is referred to a separate tribunal so that the whole question of bonus can be thrashed out?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Because this has been referred to by the parties concerned, the hon. Member may put it to the Workers' Union to raise the question with the Government, and then I shall consider the question.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : In view of the fact that the workers have agreed temporarily and the demand of the Union was for 33-1/3 per cent of their pay as bonus, and also in view of the fact that the special tribunal never touched this question, will the Government be pleased to appoint an Arbitration Board or a separate special tribunal to settle this question finally? May I inform the Hon. Minister also that even in North India, a sum of Rs. 6 crores was given as bonus for the workers? I want to know why there is this delay in this matter, and whether the Government will take quick action?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Again I repeat, Sir, this bonus question has been agreed to by the parties. But, if the hon. Member is interested, he may put it to the Workers' Union to raise this question with the Government. Then the Government will examine it.

Reserve Bank and Rural Co-operative Banks

* 3141 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Reserve Bank of India gives any financial assistance to Rural Co-operative Banks for supplying credit to agriculturists; and

(*b*) if so, the rate of interest charged by the Reserve Bank and the rate at which rural banks lend money to the agriculturists?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : (a) The Reserve Bank of India does not give any financial assistance directly to Rural Co-operative Banks, nor does it provide any special financial accommodation exclusively for financing Rural Co-operative Banks. The short-term funds being provided by the Reserve Bank to the Co-operative Central Banks are channelled through the State Co-operative Bank, along with its own funds for financing medium term agricultural purposes. The Central Co-operative Banks also raise their own funds by way of deposits, etc., and lend among other Co-operative Institutions to Rural Co-operative Banks also.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India charges interest at 1½ per cent per annum on the amounts provided by it to the Central Co-operative Banks through the State Co-operative Bank. The Rural Co-operative Banks charge interest at a rate not exceeding 6¼ per cent per annum on the amounts provided by them to the ultimate borrowers.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Government see that steps are taken so that the agriculturists may get loans at a lesser rate of interest inasmuch as the Reserve Bank is charging only 1½ per cent?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, Sir. The Central Banks of certain districts have reduced their rates of interest by one-half or one-fourth per cent to Rural Banks. This will enable Rural Banks to give loans at one-half and one-fourth per cent less than the rates they are charging at present.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : Is it not the duty of the State Bank of India recently nationalised to finance these Rural Banks that are being organised?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : No, Sir. This amount is made available by the Reserve Bank, the State Co-operative Bank of Madras, and the District Central Co-operative Banks.

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM : In view of the fact that money taken from the Reserve Bank is sent through the State Bank and the Central Bank to banks which are to pass it to the people, I want to know from the Government whether steps will be taken to persuade one of the banks to transfer money without charging interest or whether Government will see that money got from the Reserve Bank is sent direct to the Rural Banks?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The amount of loan given by the Reserve Bank is not meant only for the Rural Co-operative Banks but it is also meant for numerous agricultural credit societies functioning in the State.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know, Sir, through how many intermediaries this money passes before it actually reaches the agriculturists?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The State Co-operative Bank, the District Central Co-operative Bank, and the agricultural credit societies.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will not dealing with the agriculturists right from the Reserve Bank direct to the Co-operative Bank, eliminating the State Bank, help the agriculturists in the matter of rate of interest?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I have already said that this amount is not meant solely or exclusively for the Rural Co-operative Banks but also for the numerous agricultural credit societies.

MR. SPEAKER : Question-time is over. Answers to the remaining questions will be printed and form part of the official proceedings.

Trespass into community lands of Kadupatty village

* 3142 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations during the years 1953, 1954 and 1955 from the Panchayat Board of Kadupatty village in Musiri taluk, Tiruchirappalli district complaining of trespass into and enjoyment of community lands by one Baba Sahib;

(*b*) the extent of the lands involved; and

(*c*) the steps taken by the Government to restore the lands to the ownership and needs of the whole village?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) About 4·37 acres.

(*c*) The Government have upheld subject to certain modifications the orders of the Board of Revenue sanctioning the grant of ryotwari patta in respect of the lands in question to one Sri K. A. Abdul Kadir. Certain further representations have been received by them in the matter. The Government are examining them.

Rehabilitation of ex-Criminal Tribes

* 3143 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the population of ex-Criminal Tribes in the State;

(*b*) the subsidy given by the Union Government for the rehabilitation of ex-Criminal Tribes in the year 1954–55; and

(*c*) the number of members of the ex-Criminal Tribes provided with jobs during the year in the Department of Harijan Welfare and District Welfare Offices.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) 4·37 lakhs.

(*b*) Rs. 3,27,840.